

BOROUGH OF TIVERTON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

for

1970

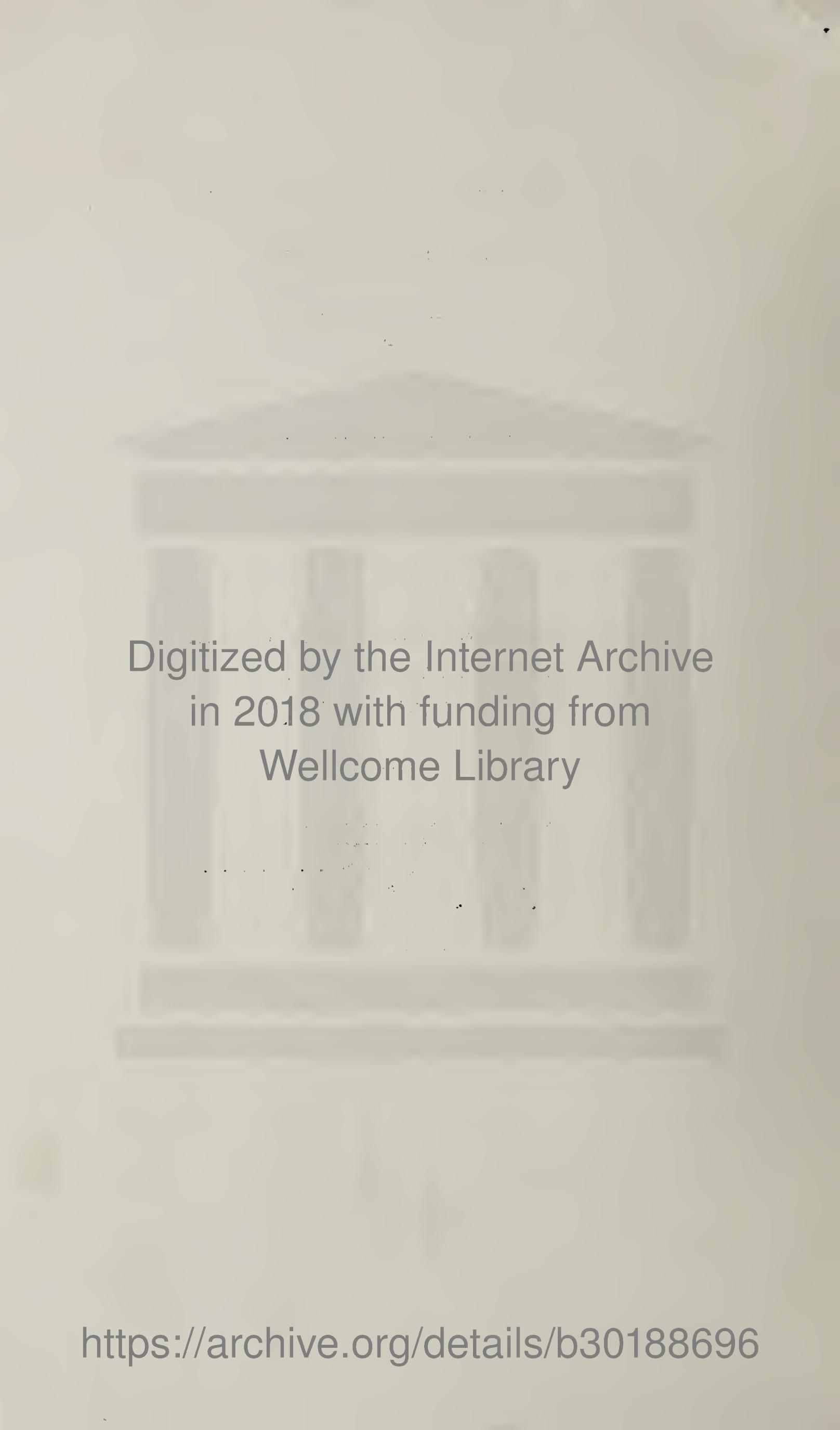
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Part time Medical Officer of Health

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.
2 The Larches, Tiverton. Tel. 2652

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Meat and Food Inspector

CHARLES JEFFRIES, F.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
2 St. Peter Street, Tiverton.
Tel. 2318/9.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30188696>

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE
BOROUGH OF TIVERTON

1st January to 31st December, 1970

2 St. Peter Street,
Tiverton,
Devon.

May, 1971

Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1970.

The Borough covers an area of 17,680 acres. The area taken up by the 'built up' area of the Borough has been increasing steadily over the last few years.

Social Conditions

Messrs. J. Heathcoat and its subsidiaries are the chief source of employment.

The Globe Elastic Thread Company, on the industrial estate at Kennedy Way, manufactures elastic thread, and is also associated with Messrs. J. Heathcoat and Company.

Messrs. Starkey, Knight and Ford is now a member of the Whitbread Group, and have large extensions at Howden Industrial Estate.

Weldcontrol (Devon) Limited, which specialises in welding, is now an expanding firm and have transferred their business to larger premises.

Fenton's Manufacturing Company, on the new industrial estate at Kennedy Way, continues to manufacture toilet requisites.

Poultry and Egg Packing are two smaller industries in the Borough. Blundell's School, a large public school, is also situated in Tiverton.

Population estimated mid-year 1970 - 15,140

Domestic Properties as shown in Rates Book 1st April, 1970 - 5,252

Rateable Value - £609,362

Estimated Penny Rate Product 1970-1971 - £5,767.

Old Age Pensioners Club, Amory House

This club has 260 members and continues to give valuable service to the aged people. The County Chiropody Service is grossly inadequate especially for the aged people.

Central Council for Health Education

Tiverton Borough Council is one that contributes annually to this organisation whose work is of the greatest benefit to this department.

Home Safety Committee

This is now established and covers both the Borough and Rural District.

Medical Services

All medical services are located at the upper end of the town, on the East side of the river. This causes considerable inconvenience to the aged residents in the lower end of the town.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS - 1970

Births	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate
Live (legitimate)	272	130	142	
Live (illegitimate)	16	8	8) 19.0 per 1,000
Stillbirths	4	3	1	.14
Total live and stillbirths	292	141	151	
Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate	1.26			
Deaths	Total	Males	Females	Death Rate
Deaths (all ages)	201	90	111	13.3 per 1,000
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate	.92			

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1970

	Male	Female
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-
Leukaemia	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	17
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1
Anaemias	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	7
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	2
Hypertensive Disease	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	25	29
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	24	18
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	2
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	6	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	-
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	2	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	2
Congenital Anomalies	3	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
All other Accidents	1	3
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	-	1
<u>Total All Causes:</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>111</u>

DEATHS FROM CANCER
1970

	Male	Female
Oesophagus	1	3
Stomach	2	1
Intestine	2	4
Lung Bronchus	6	-
Breast	-	3
Prostate	1	-
Leukaemia	-	1
Other Sites	1	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13	29
	<hr/>	<hr/>

CANCER DEATHS 1952 - 1970

	Brought Forward:-	192	
Adrenal	-	Oesophagus	15
Antrum	1	Ovary	5
Bile Duct	-	Pancreas	14
Bladder	7	Peritonei	5
Bowels	22	Pharynx	2
Brain	-	Prostate	13
Breast	46	Rectum	7
Bronchus	84	Stomach	85
Face	1	Testis	1
Gall Bladder	5	Throat	2
Intestine	9	Thyroid Gland	1
Kidney	2	Tongue	-
Larynx	1	Tonsil	1
Leg	1	Uterus	24
Liver	1	Vulva	-
Leukaemia	10	Vagina	-
Melanoma	1	Urotha	-
Maxilla	1	Lymphonatosis	4
Mouth	-	Other Sites	146
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	192	517	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	

Total Cancer Deaths 517

The figures for Bronchial Cancer continue to remain high.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Nursing in the Home
No change.
2. Domiciliary Midwifery
We have two districts midwives. We are fortunate to have an M.R.C.O.G. resident in the town who can be called upon in difficult cases, and also a D.R.C.O.G.
3. Laboratory Facilities
The Public Health Laboratory is situated in Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter.

4. Health Education

Smoking: Progress is being made in discouraging smoking among the general public.

Veneral Disease: No action is taken on V.D. as the incidence is very low and from outside sources.

5. Hospital Services

Mr. P. H. F. Le Fleming, Hospital Secretary, has given me the following report on work carried out at the Tiverton and District Hospital during the year:-

"During the course of 1970, there were a total of 2,064 discharges from the three hospitals in Tiverton, and 10,402 outpatient attendances. There were 359 live births in the Maternity Unit at Tiverton and District Hospital. In addition, there were 17,807 attendances in the Casualty Department of the Tiverton and District Hospital.

"The Hospital Management Committee have continued to press the Regional Board to upgrade and improve the accommodation for geriatric patients at the Belmont Hospital, and there have been minor improvements, particularly in relation to fire precautions. 1970 was the first full year of use of the Tiverton and District Hospital since work began on improving its engineering services.

"Negotiations for the purchase of land adjacent to the Belmont Hospital were concluded, and the site has now been bought by the Regional Hospital Board, who have plans to concentrate the hospital services of Tiverton on this site. Preliminary meetings have been held with the Regional Board and the Management Committee's officers to discuss this development in outline and, although it has not yet appeared officially in the Board's development programme, it has been agreed that the first phase should include new buildings for the geriatric patients, for physiotherapy and for a day hospital for geriatrics. The later phase will replace the present Tiverton and District Hospital and Post Hill Hospital. The Regional Hospital Board is also discussing with the Local Authority the provision of an ambulance station and a health centre on this site."

6. Liaison Arrangements

Our local hospitals are largely staffed by general practitioners, which constitutes an advantage as regards liaison.

A Surgeon, a Physician and an Oculist from Exeter, hold clinics at the District Hospital.

7. Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers

None in the area.

8. Ambulance Facilities

No change.

9. Clinics and Treatment Centres

Consultation Clinic: Wednesday 9 - 12 a.m. Dr. E. A. Chalk and three health visitors attend in rotation (if necessary).

Ophthalmic Clinic: Every fourth Monday, all day. Dr. Chaturvedi in attendance, by appointment.

9. Clinics and Treatment Centres - continued

Speech Therapy Clinics: Mondays all day and Thursday mornings by appointment with Mr. Warby.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic: Every Wednesday from 2 - 4 p.m.

School Dental Service: Emergency treatment, Wednesday from 9.30 - 11 a.m. Orthodontic treatment by Mr. Burnott first Friday in month.

Chiropody Clinic: Most Thursdays and Fridays by appointment.

There is also a private Chiropodist who is doing valuable work and relieving our waiting list.

Ante-Natal Clinic: Thursday afternoons from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Run by District Midwives and Health Visitors. Talks on elementary dietetics, baby care etc.

Cervical Cytology: Once a month by arrangement, with Dr. S. Jones in attendance.

Hearing Assessment Clinic: Every third Tuesday in alternate months.

Retirement Club: For the 65-70's every second and fourth Friday afternoons from 2 - 5 p.m.

Mental Health Clinic: Available in the mornings from 9 - 10 a.m. with Mr. I. Mullholland and Miss Greenaugh in attendance.

Child Welfare Centre

Attendance for 1970 as follows:-

Total infants attending for the first time	-	181
Total number of sessions held	-	52
No. of sessions held with Assistant County M.O.H.	-	19
No. of attendances during 1970 - infants	-	1,475
" " " " " - 1-2 years old	-	231
" " " " " - 2-5 years old	-	152

The mothers and children have had supervision and advice both at the Welfare weekly by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitors, and in their homes by the Health Visitor. Where necessary the mothers were referred to their private doctor for treatment.

Home Help Organisation: Based at the Clinic. Cases are dealt with by Mrs. Nott and Miss Warmington.

Health Centre: These are opening throughout the County and offer the advantages of enabling several welfare and medical services to operate from the same premises. I feel it unfortunate that the Borough is behind in establishing this system as I feel that much future progress will depend on this arrangement.

Mass Radiography Service: This valuable service continues to function smoothly, making fortnightly visits on Wednesdays to the Market, from 1 - 2 p.m.

Orthopaedic Clinic

Held on 52 Tuesdays during the year. Mrs. D. A. Birch, the secretary, makes the appointments.

Number on Register at 31.1.70	-	224
Number on Register at 31.12.70	-	231
Sessions held	-	75
New Cases	-	265
Admitted to hospital	-	58
Average weekly attendances	-	20
Number of attendances	-	1,055
Admissions:-		
Adults	-	189
School age	-	24
Under school age	-	55
		268
		—

Scheme for Notification to M.O.H's of Congenital Defects Apparent At Birth

No action taken under this scheme at present.

Scheme for Provision of Incontinence Pads Service

No action taken. Need for this scheme in the Borough is not apparent.

Prevalence of Control over Infectious and other Diseases

Scabies: Cases of this disease have occurred from time to time and are usually detected by the Health Visitor or School Nurse.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation: Vaccination procedure administered by the County Council, and a clinic is held for this purpose on each Wednesday. The majority of cases are dealt with by local doctors at their surgeries. We have no evidence as to what the level of immunisation is, but we feel that every effort should be made to see that it does not fall below the safety level.

Poliomyelitis: No case of this disease has occurred during the year.

Tuberculosis: New cases and mortality during 1970 - Nil. One case has been transferred from elsewhere.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925
No action taken.

Notifiable Diseases

Age Period	Scarlet Fever		Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Infectious Hepatitis
	M	F						
Under 1 yr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 yrs.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 40 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40 - 65 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notifiable Diseases continued

Age Period	Measles		Whooping Cough		Acute Polio	Meningococcal Infection	Acute Encephalitis
	M	F	M	F			
Under 1 yr.	5	6	-	-	-	-	-
1 yr.	11	19	-	-	-	-	-
2 yrs.	18	14	-	-	-	-	-
3 yrs.	14	13	-	-	-	-	-
4 yrs.	18	20	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 9 yrs.	70	61	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 14 yrs.	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 24 yrs.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	142	136	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Fluoridation

The natural content of the Borough Water Supply is extremely low and no provision has yet been made to add fluoride artificially. The Council are uncommitted as to the value of this procedure.

Sewage Disposal

The relaying of the sewer system throughout the town is now completed and is adequate to serve the present population and expected development.

The new Sewage Disposal works has operated satisfactorily and during the year 491 million gallons passed through the works and an acceptable final effluent is being obtained.

Public Health Service

This service consists of one Public Health Inspector and one Clerk, and I consider that this service would be inadequate to deal with an emergency, and I am relieved to hear there are now prospects of a second Inspector.

CONCLUSION

It is with regret I have to announce that Mr. Jeffries, who has been with us so many years, is now due for retirement, and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere gratitude for his friendly help and co-operation during the time of our association.

I wish him the best of luck and happiness in the future.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE NICHOLSON

Medical Officer of Health

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
TO THE BOROUGH OF TIVERTON

1st January to 31st December, 1970

Public Health Department,
2 St. Peter Street,
Tiverton,
Devon.

June, 1971

To: His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
of the Tiverton Borough Council

Mr. Mayor, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I approach the presentation of this, my twenty fifth and final annual report to the Council with a certain amount of sorrow in that my long association with the Council is about to end.

The Council will, I am sure, forgive me, if I draw a comparison with the conditions in the Town when I commenced my duties and the conditions which now obtain today.

Apart from the obvious visual changes such as the replacement of the River Exe Bridge, I am reminded of the elimination of the very insanitary houses in the small enclosed courts opening off Westoxo South. These cottages were small, shut in, sunless and damp and were lacking in the standard amenities which are today accepted as the minimum requirements in a house fit to live in.

Standpipe water supplies were common and outside lavatories were shared by two, and in many cases, three houses.

In fact, approximately 275 houses have been cleared and demolished by slum clearance procedure during this period.

A great deal of work has gone into the improvement of houses and in fact approximately 400 sub-standard houses have been improved. For a town of the size of Tiverton, this is going a long way to deal with the unsatisfactory housing conditions and it can be said that the standard of housing is extremely high and the complete elimination of unsatisfactory housing conditions is within sight.

For the first ten years of my time with the Council, I was responsible for the administration of the Council's points scheme for the selection of Council House tenants. I trust I succeeded in carrying out the duties involved in a fair and impartial manner.

During my twenty five years, I tackled many of the defective old drainage systems with the result that the number of complaints in connection with defective drainage have dwindled.

I remember actually seeing live rats running along wall heads in the Town when I first arrived and today rats actually in the Town are seldom seen. I succeeded in clearing the sewers entirely of rats for a period of years and reinfestation has been very slight since.

I will not mention the numerous other duties I have been concerned with except to mention my pleasure in seeing brought about, all the recommendations I put to the management of the Exeleigh Foundry for the Cold Cupola, which had given rise to nuisance in the past from dust and fumes.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Town's water supply is controlled by the North Devon Water Board and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Raw water is sampled by the Water Board and samples for chemical analysis are not taken by the Council.

The Town's open air swimming bath was closed at the end of the 1970 Summer season and a new indoor bath opened during 1971. The water in the old open air bath was obtained from the North Devon Water Board and filtration and chlorination kept the water satisfactory.

Examination of three samples taken through the Summer months showed the quality as consistently high.

The population of Tiverton Borough has risen to 15,140 and occupies 5,252 dwelling houses including agricultural premises.

Of these, 5,192 are supplied from public mains direct to the houses.

The remainder of 60 houses have their own private supply.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses registered in the Borough of Tiverton.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Condemnation of Unsound Food

29 visits were made to shops for the purpose of inspection and condemnation of unsound food. The following is a list of food condemned:-

	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Fresh Fish	-	2	-
Tinned Meat	3	1	16
Other Tinned Food	8	3	27
Frozen Food	6	-	9
Miscellaneous	-	3	23
	19	3	19

SERVICES UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

There were no samples of raw milk examined.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Type of Premises	No. of premises	No. fitted to comply Reg. 16	No. to which Reg. 19 applies	No. fitted to comply Reg. 19
Multiple Stores	5	5	5	5
Dairies	3	3	3	3
Butchers	11	11	11	11
Bakers	8	8	8	8
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Fish and Chip Friers	6	6	6	6
Restaurants and Cafes	12	12	12	12
Grocers	31	31	31	31
Chemists	6	6	6	6
Greengrocers	10	10	10	10
Confectioners	16	16	16	16
Licensed Premises	27	27	27	27
Off-licence Premises	5	5	5	5
Factory Canteens	6	6	6	6
Hospitals etc.	6	6	6	6
School Canteens	15	15	15	15
Boarding House Accm.	18	18	18	18
Bakehouses	3	3	3	3
Totals:	190	190	190	190

Poultry Inspection

There is one poultry processing establishment in the Borough of Tiverton. 142 visits were made to the premises during the year. Chickens and hens are the only types of birds processed and the number killed during the year amounted to 650,137. Of these, 3,492 were condemned as unfit for human consumption and 646,645 passed as satisfactory.

The processing premises are of a modern structure and a high standard of hygiene is maintained. There is a spotter system for detecting unsound birds and check visits are made by the Public Health Inspector at frequent intervals.

Inspection of food premises, stalls and vehicles 54

Registered premises under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act

Manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream 62
Preparation for sale of sausages or preserved foods 28

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961

Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s.	9	-	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	74	6	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding outworker's premises)	10	-	-	-
Total	93	6	-	-

/Continued

Factories Act, 1961 continued

Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7)					
a. Unsufficient					
b. Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	-	-

OUTWORKERS

Visits to outworkers premises for inspection 3

Number of Outworkers required by Section 10

Class I	2
Class 29	18

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

It will be seen that although a total of 91 visits were carried out during the year to the 191 premises registered in the Borough, only 16 General Inspections were made. The balance of 75 visits were to premises where previously contraventions were known to exist, and these visits have not been classified as General Inspections.

Generally, co-operation of occupiers has been forthcoming in providing amenities which were lacking. There were no applications for exemption from provisions of the Act during the year and no prosecutions for contraventions.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a General Inspection during the year
Offices	1	47	1
Retail Shops	3	129	11
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	1	-
Catering Establishments open to the public & canteens	-	14	4
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
Total	4	191	16

Total number of visits of all kinds to Registered premises under Act - 91

Analysis of Contraventions Found and Rectified

Section	Contravention	Number Found
6	Inadequate Heating Absence of Thermometer	2 1
9	Sanitary Accommodation	3
10	Washing Facilities	1
12	Clothing Accommodation	2
16	Stairs and Floors	1
24	Inadequate first aid kits	1

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 continued

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Offices	- 261
Retail Shops	- 577
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	- 1
Catering Establishments open to public	- 40
Canteens	- -
Fuel Storage Depots	- -
Males: 381 Females: 498 Total - 879	

Accidents

One non-fatal accident was reported during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

Annual report as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

<u>Properties other than sowers</u>	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in District	- 6,199	241
2. (a) Total number of properties, including nearby premises, inspected following notification	- 103	2
(b) Number infested by:-		
i. rats	- 58	2
ii. mice	- 22	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	- 28	67
(b) Number infested by:-		
i. rats	- 7	12
ii. mice	-	-

The following table shows the number of rats caught in traps at the various sites:-

1969	Premises	1970
38	Fire Station	27
45	Long Drag	30
36	John Heathcoat & Company	17
107	Starkey, Knight and Ford, Brewery	71
132	W. H. Punchard and Son, Haypark	62
89	Tiverton Roller Mills Co., Ltd.	41
14	Council Depot, St. Andrew Street	13
17	Woodgates Car Park	11
43	South Western Farmers, Kennedy Way	22
14	Globe Elastic Thread Company	14
3	Underhill, Bolham Road	10
8	Post Hill Hospital	7
14	Knightshayes Estate Yard	8
21	Cottee Brook	15
15	Railway Yard	13
594	Total for 1970 =	361

Rodent Control continued

Sewers - Test Baiting

Test baiting was carried out in March and December, and showed that the sewer system was completely free from infestation.

Fenn Traps

These were permanently maintained on 15 premises where it was intended that the positioning of traps would intercept rats on possible routes into the town from the adjoining countryside.

Contracts

There are 14 concerns in the town which have contracts with the Council for the destruction of rodents. Visits to these premises vary in regularity from daily to once every six weeks, according to need.

Ashley Refuse Tip

Four treatments to the tip were carried out. 24 bodies were recovered, and the total estimated kill amounted to 66.

Rodent Operator

Mr. C. W. Tucker terminated his employment as Rodent Operator on the 3rd September. Six applicants were interviewed for the post and Mr. A. G. Watts was appointed with effect from the 16th September. He attended a three day Rodent Operator course at Liskeard which proved most beneficial and has enabled him to carry out his duties efficiently with the minimum of training and supervision.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

In the case of Improvement Grant applications, houses are inspected and advice given on the reconstruction, alterations or improvements.

Standard Grants

During the year 12 applications were received for standard grants for premises, approval being given in 11 cases, one being deferred pending decision on the future Town Centre Clearance and Renewal. Improvement work was completed in the case of 12 premises during the year and Completion Certificates were issued.

Discretionary Grants

Applications for Discretionary Grants were approved in respect of 17 dwellings in the year, and in all cases, the Council agreed to a 50% grant of the cost of approved works. 11 Completion Certificates were issued during the year.

Since grants were first available for the improvement of houses, this Council has approved financial assistance for 297 houses improved by way of Standard Grant and 119 improved by way of Discretionary Grant.

DRAINAGE

New House Construction

Normal procedure is for consultation and inspection with the builder prior to construction of drainage in connection with new house construction or alterations and rebuilding.

The department advises on the siting and design of drainage disposal plants where no public sewers are available.

All new drainage is tested and the number of tests applied to new drains during the year amount to 12.

Inspection to work in progress amount to 216 visits.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

No. of new tanks tested during the year	-
No. of existing tanks tested during the year	5
No. passed	5
Licences applied for storage of petroleum during the year ...	35
No. of licences re-issued	35
New licences issued	-
Transfer of licences	-
Inspections re. Act	23.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875

17 applications were received for the registration of premises for the storage of gunpowder and mixed explosives, and Certificates of Registration were granted.

Two licences were cancelled during the year.

Inspections carried out in connection with the Act amounted to 17.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There are three sites in Tiverton Borough licensed for caravans. Accommodation at the permanent residential site at 'Underhill', Bolham Road, is licensed for 35 caravans, and the holiday site at 'The Orchard', Cove, is licensed for 13 caravans. The third site at Riverside, Bolham, is licensed for a single caravan only.

All sites are well maintained and organised.

ANNUAL SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRESS REPORT

Year	Areas	Total Houses
1952	Pinkstones Court	16
1953	Little Silver	8
1955	Penny Park	2
"	Westexco South Area No. 1	10
1956	Westexco South Area No. 2	48
1957	Belmont Road, 11,12, 13 & 14	4
"	Candy's Court and Trickoy's Court	7
"	Seward's Court	15
1958	Wellbrook Street	3
"	Cowleymoor Cottages	3
"	Sharland's Square, Westexco North	19
1959	Castle Street and The Works	9
"	Richard's Buildings	11
"	Chapel Street, 51 to 57	4
"	Chapel Street, 4 to 22	19
1961	Riverside, 1,2,3 & 4, and Westexco South , 6, 8,10,12,14, 16/18, 20/22	11
1962	Hino's Square, 2 & 3	2
1963	Peppers Square, 1,2,3 & 4 and Church Street, 42,44,46 & 48	8
1964	Curwoods Buildings, 2,3,4,5	4
"	Westexco South, 121,123,125,127,129,131,133, 135,135a,135b,137,141,143 & 145	14
"	Curwoods Court, 1 to 13	13
"	Zetland Court, 2,3,4 & 5	4
"	Wellbrook Street, 7,11 & 13	3
"	Church Street, 9,11 & 13	3
"	Back Lane, 1,2,3,4,5 & 6	6
"	Clarkes Row, Foro Street, 1,2,4,5,6,7,8/9, 11,13,15 & 17	11
"	Hannetts Square, 6,7,8 & 9	4
"	Grattans Terrace, 1 to 15	15
"	Market Terrace, 1,2,3,4, 6 & 8	6
"	Willian Street, 8,9,10,11 & 12	5
"	Roso Cottage and 64,66,68 & 70 Barrington St.	5
"	Orchard View, 1 to 19	19
"	Gable Cottages, Canal Hill	2
1965	Rudd's Buildings	9
"	Sunny Court	4
"	Barrington Street, 113 & 115	2
1966	Prospect Place, 2 & 7	6
"	Pennys Buildings, 2 & 5	2
1967	Chapel Street, 120 to 136	9
1968	Myrtle Cottages, Castle Street	5
1955-1970	Individual houses demolished	22
	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES DEALT WITH	372

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Water Samples taken:-	Brought forward:	424
Public Mains	Dustbins	2
Private Supplies	Poultry Packers	142
Swimming Bath	Drainage - Inspections	216
Food and Drugs Act:-	Tests	12
Market Stalls & Delivery Vehicles	Disinfection & Disinfestation	13
Food Premises	Caravans	4
Ice Cream & Preserved Food	Slum Clearance:-	
Condemned Food	Inspections & Revisits	64
Factories Act	Improvement Grants	174
Inspections re. complaints	Pet Animals Act	3
Revisits	Animal Boarding Estb.	2
Clean Air	Rodent Control	22
Offices, Shops and Railway	Petroleum & Explosives	23
Premises Act	Miscellaneous	20
	424	
		1,121

Total inspections during the year - 1,121

CONCLUSION

I am glad I have been able to serve such a progressive Council in a time of great social change and I can give up my duties with the knowledge that I have been able to play some little part in these great changes which have been wrought in the Town.

I would like to pay tribute to the great and valuable help I received from Mr. Ernest Luxton, the Council's Rodent Operator, until he retired a number of years ago.

I would also like to mention the extremely efficient running of the office by Mrs. Doreen Tedder. She has been most helpful and is a great asset to the department in her dealing with the public and in initiating procedures relating to complaints in connection with food purchases, drainage and enquiries relating to Improvement Grants, during my absence on duties outside the office.

She is invaluable and I hope will continue to serve the Council for a long time to come.

Finally, I would mention, last but not least, Dr. G. Nicholson, the Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Nicholson is always available for helpful consultation, and is a quiet gentleman who has given a life long service to the medical needs of the Town's residents and to the cause of public health, and he and myself had enjoyed a most harmonious relationship.

At an age when most men are in their graves, or approaching senility, he is still active physically and mentally and devoting himself to medical problems, particularly Cancer research. I am glad I have had the opportunity of working with him and I shall always cherish our association.

I feel I have made many friends amongst the Councillors and I shall never cease to be interested in the progress of the Town.

This concludes my twenty fifth and final report.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES JEFFRIES

Chief Public Health Inspector